Presenter: Matthew A. Banks  
*Ph.D. candidate in the*  
Interdepartmental Doctoral Program in Anthropological Sciences (IDPAS)

**Title:** Faced with extinction: Can local communities play a central role in protecting a critically endangered lemur in northern Madagascar?

**Synopsis:** The involvement of local communities in the practice of wildlife conservation has emerged as an attractive option for national park directors and investors concerned with safeguarding Madagascar’s remaining biodiversity. In northern Madagascar, the country’s biodiversity is in a race against time with natural forests under intense pressure from fire, logging, charcoal production and slash and burn agriculture. Local wildlife experts from this region were trained to monitor the population levels of a critically endangered primate, the Perrier’s sifaka, at nine sites situated across the species’ natural range. Human pressures and ecology were variable across sites, allowing for important distinctions to be made regarding factors that determine conservation status in wildlife populations.

**Biography:**
Matthew A. Banks is a doctoral candidate in the Interdepartmental Doctoral Program in Anthropological Sciences (IDPAS) at Stony Brook University. He received his Bachelor of Arts from Duke University in 1998 from the School of Environmental Sciences and Policy where he was also awarded a concentration in the area of primatology. Matthew Banks’ research focuses on how ecological and human induced factors regulate abundance in wildlife populations and how this information can be used to implement effective conservation policies.

February 22, 2011 at 1:00 pm  
Center for Inclusive Education—Melville Library E-1340  
Hosted by: Dr. Alexandra Corrales  
RSVP requested: CIE_GraduateSchool@stonybrook.edu  
Lunch will be provided.

For a disability related accommodation, please call 2-1387